REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Zacharia for the helpful and courteous discussion with Applicants' Representative on February 3, 2006.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application, as amended, in view of the following remarks.

The present invention as set forth in **amended Claim 1** relates to **a sports shoe insert**, comprising:

an anisotropic bending element comprising

at least one reinforcing layer I, each of which contains a fibrous reinforcing component I with a tensile modulus of elasticity in a range of from 1,800 to 20,000 N/mm^2; and

at least one elastomeric layer II, each of which contains an elastomer and has a tensile modulus of elasticity in a range of from 2 to 1,300 N/mm^2, wherein

a weight ratio in the bending element of the fibrous reinforcing component I to the elastomer is in a range of from 1:99 to 40:60; and

when the bending element is bent about an axis parallel to the reinforcing layer I, a ratio of a rigidity of the bending element in a positive direction of rotation relative to a rigidity of the bending element in a negative direction of rotation is 1: 1.2 or more;

wherein said bending element is configured to be insertable into a sports shoe.

New Claim 22 relates to **a paddle**, comprising:

an anisotropic bending element comprising

at least one reinforcing layer I, each of which contains a fibrous reinforcing component I with a tensile modulus of elasticity in a range of from 1,800 to 20,000 N/mm^2; and

at least one elastomeric layer II, each of which contains an elastomer and has a tensile modulus of elasticity in a range of from 2 to 1,300 N/mm^2, wherein

a weight ratio in the bending element of the fibrous reinforcing component I to the elastomer is in a range of from 1:99 to 40:60; and

when the bending element is bent about an axis parallel to the reinforcing layer I, a ratio of a rigidity of the bending element in a positive direction of rotation relative to a rigidity of the bending element in a negative direction of rotation is 1: 1.2 or more;

wherein said bending element is configured to be part of the paddle.

New Claim 24 relates to **a prosthesis**, comprising:

an anisotropic bending element comprising

at least one reinforcing layer I, each of which contains a fibrous reinforcing component I with a tensile modulus of elasticity in a range of from 1,800 to 20,000 N/mm^2; and

at least one elastomeric layer II, each of which contains an elastomer and has a tensile modulus of elasticity in a range of from 2 to 1,300 N/mm^2, wherein

a weight ratio in the bending element of the fibrous reinforcing component I to the elastomer is in a range of from 1:99 to 40:60; and

when the bending element is bent about an axis parallel to the reinforcing layer I, a ratio of a rigidity of the bending element in a positive direction of rotation relative to a rigidity of the bending element in a negative direction of rotation is 1: 1.2 or more;

wherein said bending element is configured to be part of the prosthesis.

Baron et al fail to disclose or suggest a sport shoe insert, a paddle or a prosthesis comprising an anisotropic bending element as claimed. Baron et al only generally disclose the use of anisotropic molded parts in tires or for transport lines. See Baron et al at pages 8, lines 1-8.

In addition, the specification of the present invention addresses Baron et al at page 1, lines 17-21 indicating that Baron et al discloses molded parts which behave rigidly under the effect of forces from a direction transverse to the longitudinal direction and behave much more softly under the effect of forces from other directions.

Baron et al fail to disclose or suggest that when the bending element is bent about an axis parallel to the reinforcing layer I, a ratio of a rigidity of the bending element in a positive direction of rotation relative to a rigidity of the bending element in a negative direction of rotation is 1: 1.2 or more. The Examiner has argued that this property may be inherent in Baron et al. However, there is nothing in Baron et al from which this ratio could be deducted.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-13 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Baron et al and the rejection of Claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Baron et al are believed to be unsustainable as the present invention is neither anticipated nor obvious and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

The rejection of Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, is traversed. As discussed in the specification at page 2, lines 26-27, in a preferred embodiment, the molded part comprises two layers II between which a layer I is arranged off-center. This arrangement is shown in Figure 2. Thus, based on the description in the specification and based on Figure 2, a person of ordinary skill in the art can understand the meaning of Claim 14. In the above discussion, the Examiner had indicated that such explanation appears sufficient to overcome the rejection. Thus, this rejection should be withdrawn.

This application presents allowable subject matter, and the Examiner is kindly requested to pass it to issue. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the claims or otherwise wish to discuss this case, he is kindly invited to contact Applicants' below-signed representative, who would be happy to provide any assistance deemed necessary in speeding this application to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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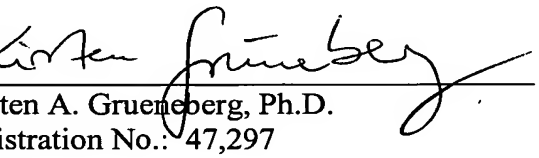

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